

distribution maps in Fry *et al*¹ and Cleere & Nurney², no records can be traced³ and this appears to be the first documented record in the country. As I did not see it again, despite my continued presence at the site, regularly driving tracks at night, it may have been a passage migrant.

Acknowledgement

Ron Demey encouraged me to write this note and commented on the manuscript.

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Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*, new to Uganda

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Les auteurs rapportent la découverte du Bulbul d'Ansorge *Andropadus ansorgei* en Ouganda. Bien que la présence de l'espèce dans le Parc National de Bwindi est soupçonnée depuis 1992, lorsque les vocalisations caractéristiques de l'espèce furent entendues pour la première fois, ce n'est qu'en août 2001 que ceci a pu être confirmé par l'observation visuelle d'un oiseau répondant vigoureusement à la repasse de son chant. L'espèce, qui peut facilement être confondue avec le Bulbul gracieux *A. gracilis*, est probablement commune dans le parc.

On 12 November 1992, RD, Lincoln Fishpool and John Miskell heard the typical rattling call of Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei* at Kitahurira, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, west Uganda. A small greenbul was briefly seen in the upper mid-level of the forest edge but its underparts coloration could not be ascertained. On plumage characters alone, it therefore could not be separated from the very similar and locally not uncommon Little Grey Greenbul *A. gracilis*. However, as the dry rattle is, in the observers' field experience, never made by Little Grey Greenbul, RD and LF were certain of the identification, being familiar with both species' vocalisations from elsewhere in Africa, especially Yapo Forest, Côte d'Ivoire. They were aware that Ansorge's Greenbul was not on the Bwindi⁵ or even the Uganda list^{2,7} but, as good views had not been obtained, preferred to await further evidence before claiming an addition to the country's avifauna.

On 4 August 1999 NB observed several small greenbuls resembling *A. ansorgei* and making the dry rattling call in the mid-canopy along the main track at Buhoma, Bwindi. However, as he knew that only *A. gracilis* had been recorded in Uganda, he speculated that the rattle ascribed to *ansorgei* by Fishpool *et al*¹ was perhaps also made by *gracilis*. Cameroon Sombre Greenbul *A. curvirostris* was excluded by its larger size, plainer appearance, less obvious broken eye-ring and its vocalisations, which also include a rattle

that is, however, much shorter and muted. The statement in Zimmerman *et al*¹ that *gracilis* has a 'pale brown' vent further confused NB, as this did not match his West African experience of the species. Though Keith *et al*¹ also state that *A. gracilis* has 'pale-brown undertail-coverts', examination of skins at the Natural History Museum (Tring) revealed that these are better described as yellow-ochre, merging into yellow on the belly, whereas in both races of *A. ansorgei* (nominate and *kavirondensis*) the ginger-coloured undertail-coverts and flanks surround the greyish belly, with no hint of yellow in the plumage. Skins of *A. g. gracilis* and *extrema*, the races occurring in West Africa, and of *A. g. ugandae*, known from the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to west Kenya, were very much alike, without plumage differences that would be noticeable in the field and all having a yellowish vent and belly.

On 2 August 2001 NB again heard the dry rattle along the main track at Buhoma and briefly saw two birds with the gingery vent and flanks typical of *ansorgei*, but they rapidly departed and did not respond to playback of a recording of the rattle made by Chappuis³ in Cameroon. In addition to the dry rattle, *A. ansorgei* also produces a distinctive three-note whistle. NB later heard this whistle and the vocalising bird responded vigorously to playback of an identical recording, made by Chappuis³, coming directly to the source of the sound and affording excellent views. The lack of yellow on the underparts and the

Ansorge's Greenbul is an uncommon to locally common forest resident in west Guinea to Togo and from Nigeria to south-west Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo, with a disjunct population, described as a separate race *kavirondensis*, in west Kenya^{1,6}. Status and distribution are obscured by confusion with the more common and widespread Little Grey Greenbul. We suspect that Ansorge's Greenbul is common in Bwindi.

NB's observations were made while leading Birdquest tours. Alfred Twinomujuni and Adam Riley provided assistance in the field, and Lincoln Fishpool commented on the manuscript. 

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